

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
1951

Chairman of Council - Councillor J.P.Prangnell, J.P.,

Chairman of Public Health  
Committee - Councillor J.B.Barton

Clerk to the Council and Chief  
Financial Officer - F.Tomlinson, F.I.M.T.A., A.R.V.A.,

Medical Officer of  
Health - Dr.C.E.Etheridge, M.B.Lond, M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., (to 31/10/51)

Dr.M.S.Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(from 1/11/51)

Chief Sanitary  
Inspector - F.W.I.Whitehouse, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,



To the Chairman and Members  
of Whitstable Urban District  
Council.

Mr.Chairman,

The Report which follows concerns the public health and sanitary affairs of your district for the year 1951. During that year you entered into an arrangement with four other local authorities to appoint a joint medical officer of health, and on 1st November 1951 the Minister of Health promulgated an Order bringing into being an East Kent United District for that purpose, to include Whitstable U.D., Canterbury C.B., Sandwich B., Bridge Blean R.D., and Eastry R.D. This sadly meant a break with the Medical Officer of Health who had served you so well for twenty-one years, and in taking over from Dr.C.E.Etheridge I am deeply conscious of how difficult it will be to fill his place. Your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr.Whitehouse, and the other Officers of the Council have been most helpful during the take over. The Council have given me a very friendly reception.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S.HARVEY.

Medical Officer of Health

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Whitstable is situated on the North Kent Coast overlooking Whitstable Bay, with the Thames Estuary and North Sea to the North. Parts of the old town are low lying and protected by sea walls. Westward lie the Graveney marsh and Seasalter level drained by dykes into the sea. Eastwards and to the South the ground rises to wooded hills overlooking the old town and the bay, and offering a stirring view of the white sails of the regatta with sunshine and sea breezes. Farmland is mostly given to pasture and has in parts been denuded by the spread of house building between 1918 and 1939. The sub-soil is London Clay and the whole area drains towards the sea through the Red and White Sluices at Seasalter, the Gorrell Stream in the town and the Swalecliffe Brook to the East.(based on A.R.1950).



The lowest level of the district is 9.5 O.D. and the highest 222 O.D. The mean level of the sea walls in the lower part of the old town is 16 feet above ordnance datum. The climate is dry and bracing, with an excellent reputation for the treatment of respiratory diseases. The prevailing wind is South Westerly, except during the first three months of the year when winds can be cold and keen from an easterly and north easterly direction. For the remainder of the year it is very sunny and warm (A.R.1950).

The town has a few light industries such as furniture making, the building trade, motor engineering, etc., with some fishing and harbour traffic. The Oyster Fisheries are a prominent and important local feature. Many of the local population find employment in London, the Medway towns and Canterbury, and railway links are of importance to the town. The building of the Sir William Nottidge Secondary School during the year was a progressive development.

#### STATISTICAL DATA

The area of the Urban District, excluding foreshore, is 7,640 acres. The area between high water mark ordinary tide and low water mark ordinary tide is 2,333 acres (see A.R.1950).

The number of inhabited dwellings is estimated at 6930.

The rateable value has risen to £150,094, an increase of £2,910 in the year.

The product of a 1d Rate has risen to £597.12. 2.

The population in mid 1951 was estimated by the Registrar General as being 16,870, of which 1,270 were 0 - 4 years of age, 2,127 were 5 - 14 years, and 13,473 aged 15 and over.

The Census figures do slightly better for us and are shown below.

	Male	Female	Total
1931	5,983	7,574	13,551
1951	7,683	9,784	17,467





This shows a 28.8% increase over 20 years and an increase in the population of females from 55.9% to 56%, a very slight move in the wrong direction.

### VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS: A total of 230 births and 4 still births occurred during 1951. 13 of these occurred outside marriage. The detail is as follows:-

	Total	Male	Female
Births	230	125	105
In Marriage	217	119	98
Outside Marriage	13	6	7
Still births ( all within marriage)	4	3	1

The live birth rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population (R.G.estimate) is therefore 13.63 births per 1,000. If we apply the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.19, which corrects for differences between population factors of different areas, we have a corrected Birth Rate of 16.22 per 1,000. This compares with the figure for England and Wales of 15.5 and for the smaller towns of 16.7 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS: The total number of deaths during 1951 was 326 : of these 7 were children under the age of 1 year, of whom 5 were under 4 weeks old.

The detail is as follows:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total Deaths ...	326	154	172
Deaths under 4 weeks	5	-	5
Deaths 4 weeks to 1 yr	2	2	-

Only one of the infant deaths was in a child born outside marriage, this being one of the 5 female deaths under 4 weeks.





The Death Rate calculated from the total deaths is 19.32 per 1,000. This requires correction before comparison, and the Registrar General's comparability factor is 0.63. This gives a corrected Death Rate of 12.17 per 1,000, and compares more reasonably with the figure of 12.5 per 1,000 for England and Wales, which is also the rate for the smaller towns.

It would be unreasonable to calculate an Infant Mortality rate from such small figures. The causes of infant deaths are listed.

Causes of NeoNatal Deaths	Under 24 hrs	24 hrs - 1 mnth	1 - 12 mnths	Total
Partial atelectasis.	1	-	-	1
Premature birth.	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia and pleural effusion.	-	1	-	1
Haemolytic disease of newborn.	-	1	-	1
Broncho pneumonia and congenital malformation.	-	1	-	1
Anoxia, congenital morbis cordis.	-	-	1	1
Broncho pneumonia and acute leukaemia.	-	-	1	1
	1	4	2	7

### Ages of Death

Age in yrs	0-1	1-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-80	80-90	90+	Total
Male	2	-	1	5	33	76	31	6	154
Female	5	-	-	6	22	60	64	15	172
Total	7	-	1	11	55	136	95	21	326



CAUSES OF DEATH	Male	Female	Total	
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	2	2	4	
" - Other	1	-	1	
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	1	
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough,)				
Meningococcal Infection, )				
Acute Poliomyelitis and )	-	-	-	
Measles )				
Other infective and				
Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	9	1	10 )	
" " lung & bronchus	9	3	12 )	
" " breast	-	5	5 )	62
" " uterus	-	3	3 )	19% of
" " others	16	13	29 )	total
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	1	2	3 )	
Diabetes	-	-	-	
Vascular lesions of nervous				
system	13	21	34)	
Coronary Disease, Angina	25	23	48)	175
Hypertension with Heart				(Male 75 )
Disease	2	5	7)	(Female 100)
Other Heart Disease	27	38	65)	53.7% of
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	13	21)	total
Influenza	2	5	7 )	30
Pneumonia	3	4	7 )	9.2% of
Bronchitis	5	8	13 )	total
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	-	3 )	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3	
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	2	3	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	4	5	
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4	
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2	
Other defined and ill defined				
diseases	15	13	28	
Motor accidents	1	-	1	
All other accidents	2	4	6	
Suicide, Homicide, etc.	-	-	-	
	154	172	326	





The town's population includes a great number of elderly persons, which is confirmed by the Registrar General's low comparability factor of 0.63 for deaths to correct our death rate for this anomaly. Just under 6% of the deaths occur over the age of 90, and over 30% over the age of 80. This preponderance of the elderly accounts for the high proportion of females, who make up 56% of the total population, for females are more long lived than males. This excess of females is the reason for the higher number of female deaths.

The table of comparative figures for the last ten years, as included in previous annual reports, is shown below. From it you will see that there was a marked increase in deaths diagnosed as cancer of organs or bloodstream, and that the outbreak of influenza and associated respiratory disease in the early part of 1951 caused a greater number of deaths from these causes.

Comparative Figures for Deaths from Certain Causes  
for the last 10 years

Year	Notifiable Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Malignant Neoplasm	Heart and Circulatory Diseases	All Causes
1942	1	5	12	2	34	107	220
1943	-	7	16	10	33	106	222
1944	1	3	11	5	42	106	220
1945	-	4	10	-	32	145	239
1946	-	7	15	7	48	119	267
1947	-	5	24	-	45	165	306 )
1948	-	8	9	2	47	131	261 )
1949	-	5	25	2	47	174	301 ) mean
1950	-	-	16	1	42	175	279 ) = 295
1951	-	5	23	7	62	175	326 )

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As illustrated on the following table the notifications of infectious disease were greatest in the first and last quarters of the year.





Scarlet fever had a steady low incidence until the last quarter when a rise was noticeable. The form of the disease is mild and only two thirds of the cases were admitted to hospital.

Whooping cough was quite prevalent in the first quarter, especially in the 0 - 4 age group, in whom it can be a most dangerous illness causing residual complications which, although not obvious, yet are undermining the child's subsequent health.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE INCIDENCE

Qtrs of the year

Disease and Age Group		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total for year by age groups	Total Notifi- cations of Disease in year	Admitted to or in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	0-4	2	5	7	8	22	62	40
	5-9	8	5	5	17	35		
	10-14	-	-	1	3	4		
	15+	-	-	-	1	1		
Whooping Cough	0-4	143	17	3	2	165	267	3
	5-9	88	7	1	-	96		
	10-14	2	-	-	-	2		
	15+	4	-	-	-	4		
Measles	0-4	35	6	5	38	84	219	2
	5-9	40	7	-	74	121		
	10-14	3	1	2	1	7		
	15+	2	2	-	3	7		
Acute Pneumonia	0-4	3	-	-	-	3	21	1
	5-14	1	-	-	-	1		
	15-44	6	1	-	-	7		
	45+	9	-	1	-	10		
Dysentery	0-14	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	15+	-	-	1	-	1		
Erysipelas	0-14	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
	15+	1	-	2	1	4		
Puerperal Pyrexia		-	1	-	1	2	2	2
TOTAL		347	52	28	149			



TUBERCULOSIS 1951

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Cases on Register at commencement of 1951	76	38	18	29	161
Cases notified during 1951	9	5	-	1	15
Cases restored to Register during 1951	1	-	-	-	1
Other Additions	5	6	-	-	11
Cases removed from Register during 1951	7	3	1	1	12
Cases remaining on Register at end of 1951	84	46	17	29	176





Measles was prevalent in the first and last quarter of the year involving school children to a greater degree than the under 5's.

Acute primary or influenzal pneumonia was a trouble during the outbreak of influenza in the first quarter of the year, especially for the middle and elderly age groups.

#### CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease requiring special arrangements.

The County Medical Officer has supplied figures on the immunization of children against diphtheria and on vaccinations done during 1951 as follows:-

The Number of Children under 15 who had completed a Course of Diphtheria Immunization up to 31.12.51.

Year of Birth	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
	159	177	222	179	228	273	291	265	228	233	244	168	137	113	30	2947

#### IMMUNIZATION DONE DURING 1951

Year of Birth	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Primary Inoculations	30	98	16	6	4	11	2	1	-	1	8	2	1	-	-	180
Reinforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	1	38	25	13	3	3	4	4	7	8	11	117

#### VACCINATIONS DONE DURING 1951

Age at 31st December 1951	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	78	33	17	27	155
Number Re-Vaccinated	-	5	10	66	81



The position is not good. Although the first table implies that some 86% of children have been immunised against diphtheria, at some time, the immunisation of recent intakes into the child population has declined, and less than 60% of those born in 1950 had been immunised by the end of 1951.

Vaccination against smallpox is no better, far less than half the children born since the beginning of 1950 have been vaccinated. Can parents fail to realise how ease of travel by air and the shorter duration of sea travel from the middle and far east have removed our defences from smallpox? This disease can still be incubating between the time of a person's departure from India and his settlement in the midst of our community. The similarity between the change in the mode of onset of war and that of the onset of an outbreak of smallpox such as occurred in Brighton in 1950, puts vaccination of infants in the same vitally important category as that of Civil Defence. We must be prepared and protected for there will be no time in hand if it happens.

#### GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

##### HOSPITALS - GENERAL AND MATERNITY

The Whitstable and Tankerton Hospital serves the district for general hospital purposes, and has associations with the various specialists appointed to the Canterbury Group Hospitals by the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. St. Heliers Maternity Home is now linked with the Maternity department of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

<u>I.D.</u>	For infectious diseases the district uses Haine Hospital, Ramsgate.
<u>T.B.</u>	The nearest Chest Dispensary is at Cavendish Road, Herne Bay.
<u>V.D.</u>	Clinics at which no appointment is required if one has reason to seek advice, are held at the Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury. Females - Tuesday and Friday, 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Males - Tuesday and Friday, 5 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

##### AMBULANCES

The Whitstable Ambulance Station (Kent County Council) serves the district.

##### LABORATORIES

For Public Health work the Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, is used. The general medical practitioners





make use of the pathological facilities of the County Laboratory, and of the hospital pathological laboratory at Canterbury, as well as the out-patient pathological clinic held at the Cavendish Road Clinic, Herne Bay, by appointments made through the Canterbury laboratory.

### COUNTY COUNCIL CLINICS

County Council Clinics for the care of mothers and young children, immunization and vaccination and allied services are based on the Cromwell Road Clinic.

### GENERAL MATTERS

#### STAFFING

The only change has been already referred to, namely the retirement of Dr.Etheridge.

Chief Sanitary Inspector - F.W.I.Whitehouse, M.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary  
Inspector - G.W.Carr, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

General Assistant - P.K.Marsh

Clerk to Public Health  
Department - Miss Slingsbury

The staff of the Public Health Department have been most helpful to me, especially Miss Slingsbury who keeps the various records required by a Medical Officer of Health, and has typed out this report.

### SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT AND NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

The Council authorised me to act under the amending Act if the situation is one of urgency. No action has been found necessary under either power, to secure the necessary care and attention for anyone suffering from grave chronic disease, or aged, infirm or physically handicapped, and found to be living in insanitary conditions and to be unable to devote to themselves, or to receive, the proper care and attention which they require. Several cases were investigated and resolved by informal action, or continue under observation.





### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the district comes from the Canterbury Water Company and Mid-Kent Water Company. The latter supplies a small area at Yorkletts and Seasalter. The former is received into the town's mains. 99.5% of the dwellings receive main water supply. The supply proved adequate throughout the year. Six water samples of untreated water were taken and proved satisfactory. Two out of seven samples of treated water taken proved unsatisfactory, and investigation indicated that repairs to mains were the cause. Repeat samples were satisfactory. Two new mains and several sections of mains were renewed by the Surveyor during the year.

### FLOODING

During the year the Ministry agreed to a portion of the main scheme for alleviation of flooding through sudden excessive rainfall, and this will proceed in 1952. Work began on the first part of the sea defence scheme to prevent tidal flooding.

### ROADS

In view of the nature of the sub-soil and the low level of part of the area, the problem of unmade roads is a difficult one, especially in relation to refuse collection and cesspool emptying during the winter months. Houses have been built in the past in places where this building should of necessity have been preceded by road making with a permanent surface. The private building between the wars on small parcels of land developed indiscriminately has left many difficulties. The Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information. The district has 42.75 miles of road, of which 27.9 miles are not made up. 14.9 miles of the unmade roads could and may be made up. That is a long road to go.

### HOUSING

The Council had 444 tenancies at the end of the year, of which 400 were Council houses, 22 miscellaneous tenancies and 22 requisitions or inherited hutments. 48 houses were completed during the year by the Council, and 7 by private building.

### CAMPING

There are 14 camping sites in the district, licensed for a total accommodation of 1162 moveable dwellings or chalets. None are recognised as permanent dwelling places.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1 - INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	25	39	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority..	95	113	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	120	152	6	-





FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	7	7	-	-	-
Overcrowding ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient..	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	7	7	-	-	-
TOTAL	21	20	-	-	-

Mr. Whitehouse presents a fuller report on the detail of his work, including that work done under the Factories Acts. That report is complementary to this one and should be read with it.



# HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

GATE LODGE,

THE CASTLE,

WHITSTABLE.

October 1952.

To: The Chairman and Members  
of the Whitstable Urban  
District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report of  
the work carried out during the year 1951.

## G E N E R A L

Total number of inspections made was 4898, made up  
as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	25
Milk Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling.	...	...	...	...	...	76
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	131
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	184
Cafes, Restaurants, etc...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Food Preparing Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	66
Fishfryers	...	...	...	...	...	25
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A.) 1st Visit	...	...	...	...	...	224
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A.) Re-visit	...	...	...	...	...	217
Dwellinghouses (Housing Act)	...	...	...	...	...	93
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	11
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	77
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	205
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations..	...	...	...	...	...	85
Re-visits and Works in Progress.	...	...	...	...	...	365
Drains Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	495
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	48
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	109
Keeping of Animals..	...	...	...	...	...	60
	(Council Premises	...	...	...	...	57
Rodent Control	(Dwellinghouses.	...	...	...	...	388
	(Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	...	63
	(Business Premises	...	...	...	...	183



National Assistance Act...	...	...	...	3
Petroleum	...	...	...	35
Hawkers	...	...	...	9
Infectious Diseases.	...	...	...	144
Public Conveniences.	...	...	...	70
Factories Act (Mechanical power)	...	...	...	118
Factories Act (Non-mechanical power) ..	...	...	...	38
Shops Acts	...	...	...	135
Shops Acts (Evening inspections)	...	...	...	27
Water Supplies	...	...	...	51
Requisitioning	...	...	...	26
Unsound Food	...	...	...	167
Bedding and Disinfection..	...	...	...	110
Refuse Collection and Disposal..	...	...	...	371
Civil Defence	...	...	...	79
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	124

#### NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following Notices were served:-

Number of Informal Notices	...	...	...	117
Number of Statutory Notices	...	...	...	10

With the following result:-

Number of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served...	...	78
Total number of Notices completed	...	87

#### NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	27
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	13
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22
Floors ventilated...	...	...	...	1
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	17
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	...	...	61
Sinks repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	3
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
Brickwork repaired..	...	...	...	19
Fireplaces repaired and renewed.	...	...	...	10
Drains relaid or repaired.	...	...	...	16
Drains cleared	...	...	...	38
W.C's repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	16
W.C's provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	6





Ceiling and wall plaster repaired	...	...	32
Rising and/or penetrating damp..	...	...	32
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	21

### H O U S I N G

#### 1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	317
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations..		NIL
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	NIL
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	NIL
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	117

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	...	78
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#### Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	... ..	NIL
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#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	10
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(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

3. C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... NIL

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... NIL

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936... ... NIL

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... ... 13

(2) Number of families dwelling therein... 23

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 59

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... NIL

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved.. 27

(d) . Number of persons concerned in such cases. 81

(e) Number of new cases of overcrowding. ... 2

New Houses During 1951

(a) Total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during the year ... ... 20

(b) Total number of houses erected during 1951 ... ... 55





(c) Houses erected by Local Authority ...	...	48
(d) Houses erected by other persons ...	...	7
(e) War damaged houses rebuilt ...	...	NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION  
OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLIES

At the end of 1951 there were four registered dairies and nine registered distributors operating in the area.

Four dealers bottling licences and two supplementary licences for Tuberculin Tested milk were issued, and two supplementary licences in respect of Pasteurised milk.

Major improvements were carried out at two of the dairies, including at one, extension of the premises, the installation of a new boiler and mechanical bottle washer, and at the other, extensive structural alterations, provision of a bottle washing machine and the installation of a high temperature short term pasteurising plant, incorporating the latest technique, and at which dairy all milk is now pasteurised.

Forty-two samples were taken from distributors as follows:-

Twenty-two samples of Tuberculin Tested bottled milk, of which nineteen passed the test.

Four samples of Pasteurised bottled milk, all of which passed the test.

Six samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) bottled milk, all of which passed the test.

Six samples of raw milk which were of a satisfactory nature.

Four samples were taken for biological examination, of which number one was found to contain tubercle bacilli. In the case of the unsatisfactory sample action was taken by the Medical Officer in accordance with Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, the milk being pasteurised until a satisfactory report was obtained from the Divisional Veterinary Officer.



### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The majority of the home killed meat retailed in Whitstable is received from an abattoir in South East London where it is inspected prior to distribution.

To meet the convenience of the local butchers the meat is delivered from the wholesale depot at Canterbury to a centrally situated slaughterhouse from whence it is allocated and collected.

In connection with the operation of the Clean Food Byelaws and enactments under the Food and Drugs Act, 315 visits were made to butchers and other food shops, 123 inspections were made of cafes, restaurants and kitchens, and 91 of other food preparing rooms.

It is found that traders are generally co-operative in applying the Clean Food Byelaws, and in no case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings.

Twenty-two samples of ice cream were taken during the year, of which number sixteen were placed in Grade 1, three in Grade 2, and three in Grade 3; all being free from disease producing organisms.

Although there were originally fifteen premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream, the number of ice cream manufacturers is now six.

All manufacturers utilising plant in which the ice cream is heat treated have installed recording thermometers in accordance with Regulations introduced in the early part of the year.

### WHITSTABLE U.D.C. ACT

Three persons were registered as food hawkers in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and two premises were registered for storage accommodation of food intended for sale for hawking purposes. The total registrations at the end of the year being twenty-two persons and nine premises.



### UNSOUND FOOD

The following is the amount of unsound food voluntarily surrendered during the year, and for which condemnation certificates were issued:-

	lbs
Meat ... ..	432
Tinned Meat ... ..	1,033
Fish ... ..	296
Tinned Fish ... ..	30
Tinned Milk ... ..	62
Cheese ... ..	10
Cooking Fat ... ..	560
Tinned Fruit ... ..	269
Jam ... ..	93
Sweets ... ..	13
Eggs ... ..	319
Miscellaneous... ..	<u>714</u>
	3,831

### SHOPS ACTS

The Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for the administration of the Shops Acts under the powers delegated by the County Council, to whom a separate report has already been made.

### FACTORIES ACT

There are 120 factories on the register, 95 of which use mechanical power. 156 inspections were made, resulting in 21 defects being discovered, 20 of which were remedied during the year.

### PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Thirty-one licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit during the year.

Close supervision is maintained of all new installations, and all tanks are subjected to a pressure test before being finally approved.





# RODENT CONTROL

The following statistics denote the amount of work carried out by this department during the year:-

Number of complaints received	...	163	
Number of infestations found	...	128	Major 5 Minor 123
Infestations found as a result of independent investigations	...	105	
Infestations treated by Council's Operator	... ..	226	
Infestations treated by occupiers..		1	
Number of block control schemes carried out	... ..	21	

NOTE Major infestations denote twenty rats or more.

The usual maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out with the following results:-

Test Baiting Treatment - 6th and 7th March 1951.

Number of manholes baited	...	29
Number of manholes showing 'takes'.		5

No.1. Maintenance Treatment - 13th to 22nd March 1951.

Number of manholes baited	...	82
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	... ..	44
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days..		9

No.2. Maintenance Treatment - 10th to 13th Sept.1951.

Number of manholes baited	...	70
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	... ..	12
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days..		3

All work is carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries recommendations, and is periodically reviewed by the Ministry's Inspector, thus



enabling full grant aid to be obtained.

Information of up-to-date treatments is obtained by the attendance of a member of the Council and the Sanitary Inspector at quarterly meetings of the Workable Area Committee which consists of all authorities in the East-Kent area, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, and the Kent Agricultural Executive Committee. For the year under review Councillor W.J.King was Chairman of this Committee.

New legislation was introduced which extended the duty of inspecting houses and property to vessels in the district not being sea going ships, to ensure freedom from rats and mice.

Use was made of a new poison named 'Warfarin' introduced by the Ministry which, under certain circumstances, materially reduces labour costs.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

##### REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly collection of domestic refuse continued to be maintained during the year, two full-time vehicles, purchased early in 1949, being used for the purpose, incorporating side and rear loading respectively. Each vehicle is manned by a driver and two loaders. A third vehicle is used as a standby and for special salvage collections.

The building programme and additional and enlarged camping sites have fully extended the collection service, and it is hoped to ease the position in the future by provision of larger capacity vehicles which will lessen the number of hauls to the Tip, and thus increase the time spent in actual collection.

The condition of the unmade roads during the winter months places added strain on the service, and necessitates extremely long carries, with consequent loss of time.

Trade refuse is collected as often as necessary, and for which a charge is made, based upon the individual number of receptacles emptied.





The separate collection of wastepaper is maintained by means of a trailer on the side loading vehicle, and a separate compartment in the rear loader.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Council's site at Thanet Way, Yorkletts, which has been in use since 1936. To facilitate future tipping, and to provide for disposal for many years ahead, a mutual agreement was reached with the owner of the adjoining land. A section already utilised for tipping purposes is to be exchanged for a new section of a similar area. In this way no agricultural loss is sustained, and eventually a large area of land at present of little use owing to its waterlogged condition will be made available for agricultural purposes.

Considerable improvement was effected in the working conditions with the erection of two Nissen huts for the storage and baling of wastepaper.

Consideration was given to the collection of salvage other than wastepaper at the tip face, which resulted in "picking rights" being let on a yearly basis with the advantage to the Council of ensuring a guaranteed payment.

The price for wastepaper reached a very high peak which brought in competition from private firms who were able to make a payment for any paper supplied, and many customers were lost in this way.

Periodic spraying of the Tip face is carried out to ensure the destruction of all insects; regular rodent control treatments are also carried out.

The revenue accruing for salvage during the year was as follows:-

	£.	s.	d.
Amount received for salvage of materials from Tip (other than wastepaper)	...	...	97. 8. 3.
Wastepaper	...	...	<u>1,613. 5. 1.</u>
			£1,710. 13. 4.



### CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Supervision of tents and caravans during the summer season continued to demand a considerable amount of the Sanitary Inspector's time, and in particular, in connection with the supervision of sporadic camping on unlicensed sites within the periods permitted by the Public Health Act.

There are fourteen licensed sites in the area comprising 54 acres and providing accommodation for 1,162 dwellings, which include a number of chalets used for sleeping purposes.

All camps, with one exception, derive their water from the main supply, and the majority utilize the water carriage system of sanitation.

There continued to be an improvement in the type of van used, and site owners incline to reserve their accommodation for caravans to the exclusion of tents, which are accordingly placed on unlicensed sites where problems of water supply and sanitation arise.

### PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Health Department is responsible for the supervision of the Council's Mortuary which is situated at Island Wall; the following bodies being dealt with during the year:-

	Males	Females
Number of bodies admitted - Resident ...	8	9
Number of bodies admitted - Non-resident..	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
Number of bodies admitted for Post Mortem examinations ...	...	20
Number of Inquests ...	...	2



CAUSES OF DEATH

Natural Causes	...	...	...	19
Misadventure	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	<u>—</u>
				<u>20</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

A total of 116 rooms were disinfected during the year. The following articles were dealt with in the Council's high pressure steam disinfecting plant at Station Road:-

Mattresses	...	...	...	157
Pillows	...	...	...	340
Bolsters	...	...	...	10
Blankets	...	...	...	158
Sheets	...	...	...	51
Quilts	...	...	...	37
Feather beds..	...	...	...	10
Cushions	...	...	...	17
Rugs	...	...	...	33
Miscellaneous.	...	...	...	<u>19</u>
				832
				<u>—</u>

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

This Act, which came into force on the 1st November, made it unlawful for filling materials to be used in businesses connected with the stuffing or lining of bedding, toys and baby carriages, except on premises registered by the Council. Such businesses do not include premises where re-making or re-conditioning only is carried out.

Premises where rag flock is manufactured are also required to be licensed.

It was made an offence for articles other than secondhand to be offered for sale which are not clean or which have not been dealt with on registered premises.





There are no premises in Whitstable where rag flock is manufactured. One factory was registered in connection with the use of rag flock, and explanatory letters were sent and visits made to all relevant factories and shops.

One sample was taken from an upholsterer's premises which proved, upon analysis, to be of a satisfactory nature.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

Thirteen samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which number twelve were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample would appear to have been due to repair works which were being carried out at the time of sampling, as subsequent samples were satisfactory.

#### SWIMMING BATH

Periodic inspections were made of the private seawater swimming bath in the Westbeach area, four samples being taken for bacteriological examination to check the efficiency of sterilisation.

#### MOSQUITO CONTROL

Sections of the dykes and various pools were regularly sprayed during the summer for the destruction of mosquito larvae.

#### CIVIL DEFENCE

Much work was carried out in connection with the Welfare side of Civil Defence, the Sanitary Inspector having been appointed Head of the Welfare Section, Chief Billeting Officer designate, Emergency Meals Officer and Officer responsible for the planning of emergency arrangements in connection with the Civil Defence (Burial) Regulations.

As the tempo of training increases it will undoubtedly prove necessary for a redistribution of these posts.



C O N C L U S I O N

I wish to conclude by expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their confidence, to Dr. Harvey for his encouragement and help, to my staff for their able and willing assistance, and for the co-operation always given by the Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.I. WHITEHOUSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

